

FIRE SAFETY IS A STATE OF MIND!!

Adult homes want their facility to be as safe as possible for their residents, their staff, and themselves. However, unless they are in the Fire Safety business, many people are not aware of the ways to keep their facilities fire safe.

The Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office has developed these informational brochures so our clients may learn some of the tips for fire safety. These tips are based on the most common Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code infractions we find in Adult residential home type facilities.

10 HOT FIRE SAFETY TIPS!!

1. ***Exits:*** Exit doors, stairways and corridors are provided so that people using the facility have an easy means to exit the building in the event of an emergency. Most often, but not always, these exit ways are marked with exit signs. Often, but not always, these doors are operated by panic type hardware, which a person merely has to push to open the door.

Furniture or anything that will keep people from getting to an exit in normal lighting, darkness, or smoky conditions must never block exit ways, even temporarily. Also exit doors must never be locked from the inside.

2. ***Emergency Lighting:*** Many adult home facilities have emergency lighting, which provides *temporary* lighting in the event of power failure. This lighting is not designed to allow normal operations during a power failure but only minimal lighting for up to one hour to allow safe evacuation of your facility.

Battery operated emergency lighting is to be checked once a month. Pushing or sliding the test button provided can do this. Yearly, the light must be tested by disconnecting power to it or by cutting power to the facility (if practical) for one hour.

3. ***Exit Lights:*** Most Adult Care facilities have exit lighting at each required exit door. The lights in these fixtures must be operating at all times. If these fixtures have battery back up they are to be tested as above.

4. ***Extension Cords:*** Extension cords are to be used for temporary use *only*. Temporary use includes holiday lighting and other uses that will last only a few days. Extension cords are never to be run through doors, windows, or under rugs or carpeting. Cords should be in good condition and same size or larger than the cord of the appliance. If the cords from an appliance do not reach an outlet, a permanent outlet should be added to supply that appliance.

5. ***Multi-Plug Adapters:*** Multi-plug adapters are designed to allow more than one plug to be plugged in to a single outlet. These are **not allowed** in adult home facilities. If additional outlets are needed, permanent outlets should be provided. These may require an additional

circuit. Certified electricians should be contacted to do this type of work.

6. ***Fire Alarm:*** Many adult homes have a fire alarm system. These systems are required to have an annual maintenance check done by a trained alarm technician. Manual pull stations are required to be tested every six months. In adult home facilities that have battery-operated smoke detectors, staff must test the smoke detectors weekly and keep a log of those tests.

7. ***Fire Drills:*** Most adult homes are use group I (institutional) facilities and are required to hold fire drills on a regular basis. The drills must be held at least twice per year for each shift, with a minimum of 6 drills per year.

8. ***Sprinkler Systems:*** If your facility has a sprinkler system, tests and inspections are to be performed on a quarterly basis. There are numerous companies listed in the phone book that do this type of work.

9. ***Fire Extinguishers:*** NFPA Standard 10 maintenance is required once per year. Trained vendors perform this maintenance. Designated staff must perform a monthly visual inspection of every fire extinguisher, initial and date the tag on the extinguisher. Report any broken, missing or expelled fire extinguishers to facility manager or maintenance for repair or replacement.

10. ***Records:*** It is important to maintain accurate records of all fire drill, fire alarm

tests, sprinkler tests, and fire extinguisher maintenance and inspections.

**Marion, VA 24354
(540) 783-3461**

WEB ADDRESS

<http://www.dhcd.vipnet.org/dbfr/sfmo/sfmoindex.htm>

***IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT THE REGIONAL STATE
FIRE MARSHAL'S NEAREST TO YOU.***

**CENTRAL REGION OFFICE
501 North Second St.
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 371-7153**

**NORTHERN REGION OFFICE
70 Main St., Suite 11
Warrenton, VA 20186
(540) 347-6351**

**TIDEWATER REGION OFFICE
Suite 223
Interstate Corporate Center No. 5
Norfolk, VA 23502
(757) 455-3820**

**WESTERN REGION OFFICE
3025 Peters Creek Rd.
Roanoke, VA 24019
(540) 562-3546**

**SOUTHWEST REGION OFFICE
703B North Main St.**

FIRE SAFETY

TIPS

**FOR RESIDENTIAL ADULT CARE
FACILITIES**

Based on the
Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code



Presented by

**COMMONWEALTH OF
VIRGINIA
THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S
OFFICE**

501 North Second St.
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 371-7170

FAX (804) 371-7092